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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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 TELEPHONE
 RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE Memorandum of Conversation
 TS AUTH. REASON(S)
 ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
 DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒
 RELEASE DENIED ☐
 SUBJECT: FOI EXEMPTIONS
Demonstration at PUGWASH Meeting

DATE: August 31, 1970

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. William Polk, President Adlai Stevenson Institute
 Chicago, Illinois
 Adolph Dubs, Country Director, Soviet Union Affairs

COPIES TO: EUR - Mr. Davies
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NSC - Mr. Downey
 Amembassy MOSCOW

Mr. Polk, who identified himself as President of the Adlai Stevenson Institute and a former member of the Department's Policy Planning Council, called from Chicago to inform the Department of a possible demonstration during the course of the 20th PUGWASH meeting. Mr. Polk said that a local collection of some 60 Jewish organizations, including the Jewish Defense League, plans to hold a 3-hour demonstration comprising some 2,000 participants on September 13 to voice opposition to certain Soviet policies, especially the Soviet Government's treatment of Jews. This is the day on which the Institute plans to give a gala dinner in Chicago for the PUGWASH participants. Additional guests, Mr. Polk said, might include Robert McNamara, Henry Ford and perhaps Henry Kissinger.

According to Mr. Polk, he had been informed about the proposed demonstration by a number of Jewish representatives who plan to participate. The representatives of Jewish organizations who alerted Mr. Polk indicated that they have every intention of conducting a peaceful demonstration. Mr. Polk noted, however, that such a demonstration could get out of hand and that this prospect concerned the Adlai Stevenson Institute, which was hosting the PUGWASH meeting.

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The planned demonstration could lead to three possibilities. First, the Soviets might cancel their participation. The Soviets have already been informed of the proposed demonstration and have reportedly refused an invitation to meet with representatives of the Jewish organizations involved. Secondly, the demonstration could proceed peacefully, in which case there would be no problem. Thirdly, there might be some danger to Soviet participants. In this event, arrangements would have to be made for the American side to cancel the meeting and to do whatever necessary to avoid endangering the security of the Soviet participants in the meeting.

Mr. Polk indicated that he was meeting with some representatives of the Jewish organizations involved to inform them that the onus for any untoward incidents would rest with the demonstrating organizations since the Adlai Stevenson Institute was not taking any action to provide police protection.

I told Mr. Polk that this was a good tactic and that we had in our contacts with many Jewish organizations found them to be very responsible and desirous of avoiding violence. There were, of course, exceptions. Mr. Polk indicated, in response to a question, that the local police had been alerted to the planned demonstration. He was also planning to inform the local representative of the FBI and hoped that I would pass on the substance of his call to the FBI here in Washington. I noted that I would do so through Departmental channels.

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